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Mexico Narcotics

MEXICO

SRA ASSIGNS DRUG GROWING LAND TO FARMERS

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 27 Nov 84 Sec A pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua, 26 Nov (OEM-EL HERALDO)--The Secretariat of Agrarian Reform [SRA] has ordered 9,681 hectares of land used for growing drugs to be turned over to 148 genuine farmers.

On the first occasion that a president of the republic has visited this ancient town at the edge of the desert, Miguel de la Madrid witnessed the foregoing announcement made by the undersecretary of agrarian reform, Rafael Rodriguez Barrera. He observed an impressive parade of farm machinery from the state rural mechanization program, presented hundreds of certificates attesting to non-encumbrance of farm and livestock raising land and listened to a farmer's complaint.

Jose Bernardo Ruiz Ceballos told him: "We are still being lined up in the institutions and agencies by employees and officials without a revolutionary ideology who appropriate funds for their own personal benefit and hold positions in public administration to serve group or factional interests."

At 1145 hours sharp yesterday, there began the presentation of certificates of non-encumbrance of farm and livestock raising land, titles for agricultural and livestock development areas, credentials, records of agrarian rights and, finally, two resolutions of the first instance benefiting the residents of the municipalities of Coyame and Valle de Allende.

Rafael Rodriguez Barrera, SRA's undersecretary of agrarian affairs, after stating that the discovery made by the Secretariats of National Defense and of Government that land was being used to grow drugs, shocking the state and the country as a whole, remarked that instructions had been received from the president of the republic that the land found in this situation, if private, is to be turned over to the farmers.

In the case which occurred in this state, Governor Oscar Ornelas has issued orders that the land which had been used for "unspeakable purposes" be turned over to legitimate farmers.

Rodriguez Barrera said that the federal government is prosecuting and combating the isolated cases of people making criminal use of land, such as for drug

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growing, which is a highly dangerous crime. On the other hand, the government is stimulating, encouraging and backing the growing of staple products, and food production for the people.

A few moments before the announcement of the decision to turn over the land being used to grow drugs to the farmers, the general secretary of the League of Agrarian Communities [LCA] and Peasant Unions [SC] in the state, Jose Bernardo Ruiz Ceballos, declared that the leaders of the disgraceful activities were outsiders, because the farmers of Chihuahua have not let down their guard on any front, have achieved self-sufficiency in grains and are in a process of renovation.

He noted that the LCA and SC in Chihuahua were united with the demand of the national leader, Mario Hernandez Posadas, that this land, with its machinery, equipment, vehicles and infrastructure, be turned over to the farmers immediately.

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